

CHILDREN
should be seen
and not hurt

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More for welfare as budget cuts argued

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Some progress was made at a long meeting yesterday evening of the Ministerial Economic Committee on hammering out a formula for the 9 per cent budget cut by all ministries. But difficulties remain.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad met with Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ben Zion Rubin before the meeting to try to find a way around the ministry's opposition to cutting its budget. Rubin later told *The Jerusalem Post* that agreement had been reached regarding the budget for the current fiscal year. It apparently involves more money for his ministry.

Regarding the coming fiscal year, which begins in April, Rubin said a compromise would be reached whereby his ministry would cut expenses by eliminating duplication. Sources close to the ministry said that most of the burden would fall on the National Insurance Institute. But the NII told *The Post* that as there is no way of improving efficiency, this would mean cutting down on welfare payments made by the institute.

The Post has learned that the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry thinks that it will have to cut only 5 per cent of its budget. The other 4 per cent would come from ministries controlled by the Likud: Energy and Development, Communications, Construction and Housing, Transport and Tourism.

Health Minister Eliezer Shostak was invited to the meeting of the Ministerial Economic Committee. He said that he would cut his budget if ordered to do so by the cabinet, but the result would be serious. This is because wages and other obliga-

tions would have to be met, and the cuts would have to be made in the services available, he said.

Interior and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg said at the meeting that while he could cut from the budget for local authorities — and that with difficulty — it is not possible to cut the budgets for the police and the prisons service.

At one point Burg left the meeting to consult with Police Chief Rav-Nitzav Arye Ivizan and with Prisons Commissioner Mordechai Wertheimer.

Cuts in the education budget will not be decided until after the Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer returns to work sometime later this week. A representative of the Ministry was present at yesterday's meeting, but the prime minister agreed to delay discussion of the education budget until Hammer's return.

Top officials in the ministry say a 9 per cent cut is more than the education system can endure. Asked how much they would be willing to cut, they said that is for the minister to decide.

The committee session was unnecessarily lengthened, it is learned, by the fact that the Treasury officials brought the wrong documents to the meeting, and the ministers wasted time trying to make them out.

Treasury officials, who were excluded from the meeting after the correct documents had been produced, spoke bitterly about the discussions between the ministers.

They said they were discussing whether the 9 per cent cut should apply to contracts already signed and obligations already undertaken, or just to future programmes. The officials said that this was "largely theoretical."

Interior Ministry staff intensify sanctions

Transport Ministry staff committees from all over the country will meet in Tel Aviv this morning to decide whether to impose further sanctions in their campaign against the ministry's alleged refusal to upgrade its workers.

At the Interior Ministry, workers yesterday voted to increase their sanctions. From this morning, certificates required by recipients of German restitution payments will not be issued until further notice.

Agency board head would veto Sharon

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Minister without portfolio Ariel Sharon's chances to become chairman of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department have become very slim following a declaration of unequivocal opposition by Agency board of governors chairman Jerrold Hoffberger.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called Hoffberger in Baltimore, Maryland on Monday seeking his support for Sharon. But Hoffberger adamantly refused, saying the former defence minister was unacceptable and too controversial for Diaspora Jewry.

Sharon could theoretically be elected as Herut's representative on the Zionist Executive by the Zionist General Council this week, but he could not receive the Agency aliyah post if the board of governors votes him when it meets next month, and Hoffberger said he

would fight for the veto.

Sharon continued yesterday to lobby for the chairmanship of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department, but it was still not certain last night when — or if — the vote would take place at this week's Zionist General Council meeting.

Sharon came to Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'uma yesterday to meet with delegates from the World Union of General Zionists and the World Confederation of General Zionists, many of whom have voiced opposition to his getting the job. They questioned him about his connection with events in Lebanon, especially the September 1982 massacre of Palestinians by Lebanese in Sabra and Shatilla, and about his personality.

Sharon said that he is a controversial figure because he is a "man of action." He added that he

(Continued on back page)

Vatican, U.S. join in diplomatic links

VATICAN CITY. — The Vatican and the U.S. have established full diplomatic relations, the Vatican announced yesterday.

Vatican spokesman Father Romeo Panciroli said the upgrading of relations took effect from yesterday.

Father Panciroli did not announce the name of the Vatican's nuncio (envoy). Vatican sources said he is expected to be the current

apostolic delegate to the U.S., Archbishop Pio Laghi.

Washington was expected to announce late yesterday that President Reagan has named William Wilson, Reagan's personal envoy to the Holy See, as ambassador.

Diplomats said that while full relations with the U.S. would enhance Vatican diplomacy with most countries, it might set back church-state relations in the Communist bloc.

They said it might also affect any potential Vatican efforts to mediate

(Continued on Page 7)



Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad (left) makes a point at his meeting yesterday with Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel. (Rahamim Israeli)

Histadrut pleased with outcome of talks

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Histadrut yesterday refused to discuss a package-deal with the Finance Ministry and the private employers. In a tripartite meeting held yesterday in Jerusalem, the labour federation insisted that the negotiations should deal with what it called "concrete proposals" and not with "abstract problems, which are impossible to solve in the current situation."

The Histadrut leadership was clearly pleased with the outcome of the talks and with parallel negotiations about the civil-service dispute. Economic observers said after the meeting that Meshel's view had prevailed during the talks, as a possible package deal was not discussed, whereas the Treasury agreed that a remedy must be found for the erosion in the wages of public-sector employees.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yehoram Meshel said after the meeting that it is unrealistic to talk about a social contract in the present situation of uncertainty about employment and rising labour unrest.

The Histadrut wanted to talk about industrial projects it wants to establish but is unable to due to shortage of government financing. At the end of the meeting, it was

decided to form a working team to examine how to establish these projects.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad reviewed the state of the economy and the thrust of his economic policy. He was apparently willing to talk about a wide agreement that would include prices and wages, but was discouraged by Meshel's stand.

During the meeting, an uninvited guest turned up at Cohen-Orgad's bureau in the person of Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, who said he had been "asked by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir" to sit in on the meeting.

Treasury sources said last night that Cohen-Orgad had been annoyed by Moda'i's appearance — particularly when it turned out that the initiative had been the energy minister's. The sources said that Moda'i had suggested to Shamir that the finance minister could not tackle the Histadrut on his own. In the event, Moda'i sat in the meeting for 35 minutes without opening his mouth, the sources said.

Cohen-Orgad, Meshel and Manufacturers' Association President Eli Hurwitz decided to hold another meeting, but a date was not set.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Third Jerusalem crime figure due in court this morning

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A third Jerusalem underworld figure was arrested this week and goes before a judge today for a remand hearing as part of a police sweep of the capital's underworld.

The 34-year-old man is suspected of being an accessory in the attempted murder last week of Ya'acov Shitrit, who is under police guard at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem.

The suspect is also believed to have dealt in drugs and to have been a weapons supplier for Avner Kol, who was remanded on Monday in the same investigation. Police say

they may also be able to link the third man to the murder of a baker's wife in Jerusalem's Shmuel Hanavi neighbourhood. She was killed during a robbery attempt about two months ago.

The police think the suspect also has information relating to the killing of several other key Jerusalem underworld figures in the 1970s.

The first man arrested in the case was Micha Aslan, who was remanded for 15 days on Sunday. Kol was brought to the magistrates' court on Monday, and today's hearing, a police official said, may not be the last, as new arrests are possible.

No policy shift expected in Jordanian's cabinet reshuffle

Post Middle East Affairs Reporter and agencies

Jordan's King Hussein was reported yesterday to have replaced his prime minister and some other ministers. But a knowledgeable source in Jerusalem described the move as "routine" and indicates no far-reaching shift in Jordanian policy.

News agency reports from Amman quoted official sources as saying Prime Minister Mudar Badran has been replaced by Ahmad Obeidat, a former Jordanian intelligence chief and interior minister in Badran's cabinet, and that Obeidat had named a new 20-member cabinet.

Obeidat, 46, was born in the northern governorate of Irbid and took a law degree from the Univer-

sity of Baghdad in 1961. He was intelligence chief from 1974 until 1982, when he became interior minister.

He is an uncontroversial figure, wholly loyal to Hussein, and his appointment is not seen as signalling (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Bank Hapoalim probes actions of former chief

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bank Hapoalim announced last night that its management had launched an investigation into certain activities of Ya'acov Levinson, former chairman of the bank's board of directors, and chairman of its subsidiary, Ampal.

The investigation has already drawn a number of conclusions, said the statement, and changes will have to be made.

JEAN JACQUES GUTMANN
(father's name Hami)
who was last seen in the area of Mt. Zion, Jerusalem on January 5, 1984, since when his whereabouts are unknown.
Age 28, height 182 cm, build broad, eyes blue, hair brown, face long has a small beard. He was wearing a blue jacket, sky blue trousers, brown shoes, pullover with a collar long beige winter coat. He speaks French and English. He is ill and must take medicine, failing which his life is in danger. It is therefore of the greatest urgency to find him. If anyone knows his whereabouts, or has seen him after January 5, please contact the nearest police station or the King David Hotel (Room 411) Jerusalem. Tel. 02-221111.
BIG REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINDING OF THIS MISSING PERSON

Lebanese Army due to deploy to Awali

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The Lebanese Army is to send units down the coastal road from Beirut within a day or two to take up positions as far south as the Awali according to Israeli sources.

The Lebanese move is part of the security agreement for the Beirut area being negotiated between the warring factions with the diplomatic support of Syria, Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

Informed sources in Jerusalem said last night that Druse leader Walid Jumblatt had agreed to the Lebanese Army's — or more accurately the gendarmerie's — deployment along the coastal road and in the adjacent area of Haroub, notwithstanding reports to the contrary from Beirut. There are still difficulties, however, preventing a deployment in the Shouf region.

American special envoy Donald Rumsfeld spent three hours in

Jerusalem yesterday closeted with David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry. Rumsfeld has been involved in the talks on the Beirut security agreement, and is seeking to engage the Syrians in a dialogue on a broader settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

The administration, in Washington, it is understood, will not regard the Lebanese Army's deployment towards the Awali as a development that in itself would enable the Multinational Force to be withdrawn. The U.S. will want to see how the Lebanese Army handles its new responsibilities before drawing any conclusions.

In Israel, officials say the Lebanese deployment should speed-up — if only indirectly — Israel's own redeployment southwards, eventually back across the border. Under the Israel-Lebanon agreement of May 1983, the Lebanese Army, together with local "territorial" forces, is to take over security in the areas now held

by the IDF. Israeli officials hope that the Lebanese deployment north of the Awali, if successful, will accelerate the strengthening of the Lebanese Army and catalyze its eventual capability to take over areas south of the Awali.

Meanwhile, Israel has been trying discreetly to foster the establishment of territorial units in the south among the Shi'ite villages.

There are severe tensions, however, between the IDF and the Shi'ites, due in part to the restrictions and inconveniences imposed by the army on the local populace for security reasons.

Defence Minister Arens, in a speech on Monday night, held out the prospect of partial withdrawals even if the Lebanese Army is not yet capable of taking over security in the vacated zones. His implication was that if Israel could work out reliable arrangements with the local militias, it would be willing to hand over control of these zones to them.

Jumblatt denies agreeing to security plan

BEIRUT (AP). — Lebanese Druse leader Walid Jumblatt said yesterday he expects no quick announcement of a security plan aimed at separating the country's warring factions, because key points have yet to be agreed upon.

Jumblatt's statement came after sources close to the government said the very points that the Druse leader mentioned had been settled and the security plan was ready to be put into action.

The Syrian-backed Druse told a reporter in Damascus that he was

"far from expecting" any announcement of the plan within the next few days.

"This is because we have not reached an agreement about a number of points that are essential," he said.

Jumblatt said the points included: re-instatement and promotion of Druse who left the army during September's civil war, the "disengagement" of forces in areas south of Beirut where the Druse have strongholds, and the need for

neutral observers to be stationed between the factions.

Government officials or sources have said all these points were settled either in meetings with Jumblatt or at a meeting of Syrian, Lebanese and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers in Riyadh over the last two days aimed at implementing the security plan.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army and Druse militiamen renewed artillery barrages in the mountains overlooking the U.S. marine base at Beirut International Airport.

MKs agree in Knesset debate

Syria should not dictate IDF presence

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter

Opposition and coalition speakers were not sharply divided in the Knesset yesterday on the advisability of withdrawing the Israel Defence Forces from Lebanon regardless of the continued presence there of Syrian troops.

The debate on the Lebanese war, which originated as a motion for the agenda by Michael Bar-Zohar (Alignment-Labour), will be concluded at a future session.

Bar-Zohar said that as far as the Alignment was concerned, the Syrians could remain in the Bekaa

Valley until hell freezes over. Israel should act in accordance with its own interests, not those of the U.S.

Israel, he said, should advise the U.S. to withdraw the Marines, but in any case the U.S. would do so in the next few months. "We must return our boys immediately to our side of the border — after security arrangements are completed."

Shulamit Aloni (Alignment - Citizens Rights Movement) quoted from a document prepared by the planning division of the General Staff to the effect that we would not be able to get the Syrians out of Lebanon and that we should accept

that as a fact of life.

"Aloni was criticized by Yosef Rom (Likud-Herut), who said she was exploiting her parliamentary immunity by revealing the contents of a classified military document. Benny Shalit (Likud-Liberals) thought it strange that the Alignment favours the IDF's remaining along the Jordan and in Judea and Samaria for security reasons but refuses to recognize our security needs in Lebanon.

He said that leaving Lebanon would "bring back the Katyushas" and result in an unending war of attrition.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

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Little chance for cheaper electricity

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The price of electricity for consumers has dropped steadily in real terms over the past few years, but the public is still not feeling the full benefit of the Israel Electric Corporation's massive savings by replacing oil in fuel power plants with coal.

This is because the IEC still has to pay large debts, and until they are cleared the public will continue to pay relatively high prices for power.

These were some of the highlights of a report by IEC officials at a press conference here yesterday.

General manager Yitzhak Hafi explained that production costs of electricity can be divided into three parts: 58 per cent for fuel, 21 per cent for other operational expenses, and 21 per cent for paying loans and

other financing mainly connected with the building of power stations.

Yehuda Milo, the IEC accountant, said that if the Knesset Finance Committee continues to approve an average increase of 15 per cent per month in the price of electricity to consumers, by the end of March the corporation will still end the fiscal year with a deficit of IS5.6 billion according to today's currency.

Hafi said that the IEC has reduced the average price of the production of a kilowatt hour of electricity from IS7 in 1981/82 to IS5.34 in 1983/84. On the other hand, the consumer paid in 1981/82 on the average IS5.94 (at today's prices) and today he pays on the average IS4.90. But the price remains high compared to that paid by consumers in most Western countries, and it is expected to re-

main high in relative terms, Hafi said.

The price of oil for the power stations is about \$170 per ton, compared to \$70 per ton of coal.

According to Milo, IEC saves \$83m a year on its fuel bill by using coal, and the savings will increase as more units in the power stations convert to coal.

The free electricity that the IEC's 7,042 workers and pensioners receive costs it about IS330m per year, or about 70 million kilowatt hours.

Hafi revealed that he himself does not receive free electricity. "I thought that I would thus show a personal example," he said. "But I must admit that I have not succeeded in getting this message through. I fear that today, when the paycheque is shrinking, is not the time when the workers will agree to cut or abolish this benefit."



Labour Party leader Shimon Peres addresses striking Rogosin workers demonstrating outside the Knesset yesterday. (Rahamim Israeli)

Peres gets warm welcome from Knesset demonstrators

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres received an unusually warm welcome from demonstrating workers outside the Knesset yesterday, who mobbed his car and pleaded with him to "bring down the government."

Peres, target of hostile demonstrations in the past, spoke through a megaphone and persuaded the demonstrators, who seemed about to turn violent, to send two representatives into the Knesset "to discuss what can be done to solve your problem."

A bystander made the comment that the same people had thrown tomatoes at Peres a year ago, but one of the workers, overhearing the remark, maintained, "That happened in Beit Shemesh, not in Ashdod."

The demonstrating workers were from Ashdod's Rogosin plant. They

are striking in protest against the dismissal of middle-age colleagues. They said that the company was importing parts from Germany because it was cheaper and that had led to the dismissals.

They were demonstrating outside the Knesset, while inside the building Histadrut Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel was raising their problem with Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orlag.

One of the dismissed Rogosin workers, David Sabab, 58, demanded to know who would employ "an old man like me." He recalled that he had been working at the plant before there was a paved road to Ashdod.

Knesset members Victor Shemtov (Alignment-Mapam) and Charlie Biton of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, were also greeted warmly by the demonstrators.

Premature baby is named 'Shekel'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The parents of a premature baby boy who weighed just over one kilogram at birth, have named him Shekel because his subsequent growth matched that of the inflation.

The baby was born a month ago at the Rothschild hospital here. He was three months premature at birth.

Shekel was put in an incubator and for two weeks his condition was "very unstable," the hospital spokeswoman said. The baby's parents, who do not have any other children, were told that it would take a miracle for him to survive.

During the next two weeks, however, his condition stabilized and he began to gain weight.

The spokeswoman said that because of his weight increase the parents decided to call him Shekel. He was discharged from the hospital recently after his weight had reached 2.3 kilograms, the spokeswoman reported.



Little baby Shekel is taken home from Rothschild Hospital in Haifa recently, weighing 2.3 kilograms.

NII child allowances to be raised

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The child allowances paid this month through the National Insurance Institute (NII) will be raised to IS1,708 per credit point, with a one-time addition of IS219 for January.

The move was approved on Monday by the Knesset Finance Committee. With this quarterly adjustment of the child allowances, the payment for the first child will be IS1,708, compared with IS1,222 since last October.

The IS219 were supposed to be paid at the end of December as part of the agreement between the Histadrut and the Treasury for an advance on the cost-of-living and child-allowance increases due this month.

The NII plans to convene its governing council later this month

to discuss a proposal by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Aharon Uzan to raise the basic NII payments by five per cent for low-income groups. The increase would include widows, the disabled, those receiving income support and alimony, and the aged. The proposal also includes a 5 per cent increase in child allowances for families with four or more children.

The increase is requested in order to enable low-income groups to cope with the rising prices of basic commodities in the last few months, due to the change in subsidy policy.

EPIDEMIOLOGY. — Some 120 epidemiologists from all over Israel will hear 17 papers at the second annual conference of the Israel Society for Epidemiology in Beersheba on February 7.

Direct funds from Treasury keep some institutions open

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The homes for the aged, day-care centres and most of the boarding schools supported by the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry have been able to stay open because they have received direct payments from the Treasury.

Ministry director-general Asher Ohayon said yesterday that without these direct payments, many more institutions would have closed by now because of the sanctions imposed by the ministry staff for the last three weeks. He said that 12 boarding schools have closed for lack of money for food and fuel.

Representatives of the 1,800 foster families who are paid by the

ministry to care for between 2,500-3,000 children have threatened to release them to the ministry's care if they do not get paid. Some vocational schools run by the ministry are on the verge of closing.

A staff representative said that the pressure to launch a full strike is building up, and that it would be difficult to postpone it beyond the beginning of next week.

He said that the staff's wage demands could be dealt with either as part of the general discussions now taking place between the Civil Service Commissioner and the Civil Servants Union, or in direct negotiations with the heads of the ministry if the cabinet gives its approval.

Ministry denies charge that Haifa is mistreated

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Interior Ministry yesterday dismissed as "unfounded" a charge by Haifa Mayor Arye Gurel that the government is discriminating against his city on political grounds by withholding promised funds.

Gurel, a Labour Party member, heads Haifa's Alignment-dominated municipal coalition.

On Monday, Gurel alleged that the ministry had not forwarded more than IS1 billion it had promised to help City Hall consolidate its debts. Gurel argued that Tel Aviv, whose mayor is a member of the Likud, had not met with such difficulties.

In a sharply worded statement, the Interior Ministry said: "Mayor Gurel's contention that the government is biased against Haifa is totally unfounded. Haifa's troubles are due to the municipality's continued mismanagement of its finances."

A ministry official told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Gurel sent a telegram to the ministry three weeks ago, acknowledging the approved municipal budget of IS3.8

billion for the year 1983/84 and stating: "We will operate within the scope of this budget."

He said the Haifa municipality is careless in its spending, has too many people on its payroll including a large number working on a contractual basis and is negligent in collecting municipal rates and other payments.

The Interior Ministry says that in 1981 it gave Haifa a special grant — in addition to the regular budget — for consolidating its debts. In today's terms, that grant totals IS1.25 billion, according to the ministry.

However, Gurel maintained yesterday that Haifa had been the victim of political discrimination. He stressed that the Likud-led Tel Aviv administration had encountered no difficulties when it requested government aid to pay off outstanding debts.

"The director-general (of the Interior Ministry, Haim Kubersky) entered into an agreement by which he promised that the city's debts would be paid off. That agreement was concluded more than two months ago and he has still not fulfilled his promise," said Gurel.

U.S. sailors to get free tours of Haifa

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Free bus tours of the city for sailors from visiting U.S. Sixth Fleet ships are being organized by the Haifa Tourist Development Association.

The association has also compiled a list of hotels and places of entertainment in the city for the visitors.

Four ships, led by the fleet's flagship, the USS Puget Sound, arrived in Haifa on Sunday.

The other three ships are the guided-missile cruiser USS Richmond K. Turner, the dock-landing ship USS Fort Snelling, and tank-landing ship USS Manitowoc.

The commanding officers of the ships yesterday made a courtesy visit at City Hall, where they were received by Deputy Mayor Moshe Livneh. The Sixth Fleet spokesman said that the 2,500 sailors and Marines will tour Israel during their stay.

Tel Aviv disbands birthday committee

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The municipality decided this week to disband the city's 75th anniversary celebrations committee, and to reduce the celebrations to a minimum, due to the economic crisis.

The city's anniversary in April will be marked mainly by

educational events of symbolic, historic and nostalgic significance for youth. The project was transferred to the municipal culture department headed by Deputy Mayor Natan Wolloch.

The events will be financed mostly by contributions, and City Hall will complete the budget, Mayor Shlomo Lahat said.

Fewer second offenders went to jail in 1983

The number of prisoners returning to jail for a second time declined significantly in 1983, although it was still 48.7 per cent. This was announced yesterday by Prisons Commissioner Mordechai Wertheimer. Last year, 2,558 offenders were sent to prison, he said in a published statement.

In previous years, the portion of second offenders was 60 to 65 per cent, which is normal in most countries.

The 1983 drop is an important achievement for the Israeli probation system and rehabilitation schemes for released prisoners, the statement said.

9½ years' jail for man with 127 convictions

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A man with 127 previous convictions against him was sentenced to nine and a half years in jail by the local magistrates' court yesterday. Zion Mussafi, 39, was found guilty on four counts of stealing two handguns, a walkie-talkie and sweaters worth IS50,000.

The judge sentenced Mussafi to two years on each of the four counts and activated a suspended sentence

of one and a half years. The judge did not accept the defendant's pleas for leniency and to give him a chance to "turn over a new leaf," noting that all his previous convictions had been for similar offences.

MERGER. — Former Australian deputy prime minister Doug Anthony predicts that a merger of Australia and New Zealand is inevitable if not imminent.

Origin of TAU student row disputed

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Likud-oriented and Alignment-oriented members of the Tel Aviv University Student Association disagreed yesterday over who was responsible for an outbreak of violence at an association meeting Monday night.

The association spokesman, of the Alignment-oriented faction, said that Likud students tried to beat other students and called out to association chairman Yossi Sperling. "We'll deal with you off campus," he said.

But a Likud spokesman said the trouble started when an Arab student tried to rip an Israeli flag attached to the shirt of another Likud student.

The Likud spokesman denied that anyone from the Likud threatened Sperling. "What happened was that Sperling said they would eliminate us in the next student elections, and we answered that on election day we'll see who eliminates whom," the spokesman said.

Zim ship collides with Japanese boat

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Zim Tokyo collided with a Japanese fishing trawler off the coast of Yokohama on Monday, the Zim spokesman reported here yesterday. He said there were no casualties.

The four crew members of the fishing vessel were unhurt and were taken on board the larger ship. They were put ashore when the Zim Tokyo docked at Yokohama yesterday.

The trawler suffered some damage, but there was no damage to the freighter.

ONCOLOGY. — The oncology department and outpatient unit of the Rokeach Hospital in Tel Aviv has been moved into the new wing of the Ichilov Hospital.

Interior Ministry tells High Court:

Basketballers used law for improper ends

The two American basketball players who sought Israeli citizenship were turned down by the Interior Ministry because they were trying to exploit basic national and religious values in order to get onto a local team, Maccabi Petah Tikva, the ministry told the High Court of Justice yesterday. The court had ordered the ministry to show cause why it should not grant citizenship to Christopher Mark Rankin and Philip Daly, who married Israeli women in a civil ceremony in Cyprus in November.

Regulations require that minor league teams — Maccabi Petah Tikva is a League B team — must be manned entirely by Israeli citizens. While Israeli citizenship is available to anyone, non-Jews seeking citizenship must undergo a sometimes long process of naturalization, while Jews can generally get it on application, under the Law of Return.

Local basketball teams have had their imported non-Jewish players undergo conversion to Judaism and immediately apply for citizenship. But when Rankin and Daly produced their certificates of conversion in support of their application for automatic citizenship, the ministry clerk noticed that they were signed by a clergyman known to the ministry as a "basketball rabbi" — who is no longer recognized by Israeli rabbinical authorities. Therefore, the two applications were frozen.

The two men reportedly then flew to Cyprus and were married to Israeli women. Civil marriages contracted abroad are valid under Israeli civil law, and non-Israelis thus married to Israelis are promptly eligible for Israeli citizenship.

Rankin and Daly contend in their application to the High Court that their marriages are valid both in the

eyes of Israeli law and of international law. The ministry, they maintain, unjustly trespassed into their private lives.

But the ministry said in its reply that "no state is able or obliged to leave itself, its institutions, its values and its policy open to the stratagem of fictitious marriage for the sake of a game, or, Heaven forbid, to introduce dangerous elements into our country, or for any other unwarranted reason."

In reply to the charge that the ministry was discriminating against the two men since other sportsmen had done what they did and had been given citizenship, the ministry said that it was difficult to fight such fictions. But when they were discovered, the ministry was obliged to fight against them. In fact, the ministry pointed out in its reply, the newly married couples are not even living together. (Itim)

Give a helping hand

The elderly of Israel feel the economic strain more than most. The services that care for them are beset by budgetary cuts, a worrying situation with winter approaching. The Jerusalem Post Forsake Me Not Fund maintains and enlarges these services.

Children, too, need your contributions. The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund provides toys and games for every child in a government institution or in foster care. For many, these are the only gifts they will receive for a long time.

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One track mind

Tots to teenagers are single-minded about staying on the same fashion track this year, writes Greer Fay Cashman.



Green, white and blue training suit for girls or boys, by Gideon Oberson for Sixteen Plus (left); Adidas all the way, for adults and children (right); more track suits get into the running (far right).

WHETHER running, jumping or standing still, the present generation of tots to teenagers is singularly minded about staying on the same fashion track. The track suit has virtually become a uniform — and a walking advertisement for many of

its designers and manufacturers. Gideon Oberson in his 16 Plus range uses a certain amount of discretion in the placement of his signature logo, integrating it with the total design concept. Adidas exercises far less modesty than

Oberson and boldly emblazons its name across its sweat shirts at chest level. Honigman is gradually phasing out its logos, believing that its active sport, training and "punk lines," are sufficiently distinctive without

a logo claim to fame. Actually, the whole idea of external brand name exposure is slowly becoming passe, and increasing numbers of firms are reverting to putting their names in the only part of the garment where they really

belong — the label! With track suits, however, one can understand why there is still a considerable degree of logo preoccupation. Their geometric and asymmetric colour blocks are so repetitive that often, the only dis-

cernible difference between the track suits of one firm and another is the logo which, in itself, may determine the price. With or without logos, track suits promise to be around for a long time to come, and now that the

winter sales are on, budget-minded people who have some spare cash would do well to buy quantities in different sizes. If inflation continues at its current rate, everything which seems expensive now will cost twice as much at this time next year.

Fur ever and ever

Fur's an investment, and a morale booster, too.

DURING the last week in 1983, before the government began its debate on plans for new budgetary cut-backs, and with the media portending economic gloom, large segments of the public went on a spending spree, anticipating further price hikes at the beginning of the new year.

The spree was directed not only at basic commodities, but at luxury items as well, as evident by an eye-opening visit to the Jerusalem showrooms of Scharf's Fur. At least a dozen lunch-time customers were there, most of them Israelis.

Some of the locals may have been induced by Scharf's new, flexible pay-as-you-wear plan which, though linked to the dollar, allows for up to four monthly instalments. Others may be following an austerity buying pattern, paying more for quality and durability rather than wasting money on so-called bargains.

Admittedly, a fur jacket is at least four times as expensive as its wool counterpart, but it also has a lot more going for it. Properly cared for, a fur can last a life-time. It is warmer than wool. If it is damaged, it can easily be repaired. It can be remodelled at a fraction of its original cost. It is equally suitable for both day and evening wear, and it's a great morale booster. There's no denying that dressing in a smart fur makes one feel like a million dollars!

According to Uri Scharf, men are also developing a taste for fur, though the trend is not yet as pronounced here as it is in Europe and America.

Unlike tourists who ask to be fitted for full-length Siberian silver fox coats, local fur-hunters generally steer clear of anything too outrageous. However, Scharf's Furs best export lines have met with equal popularity at home. Two-in-ones, reversibles and detachables are the main attractions for budget-conscious shoppers who want to get

the most value for their money.

When Scharf decided to compete on the American fur market, there were two main obstacles to overcome. First, there was no point in trying to export the most expensive items because the American woman who could afford to pay \$8,000 for a coat was unlikely to buy it off the rack. She would go to her own personal furrier to have it made to measure. Secondly, the fur prices of "Far Eastern" competitors were hard to beat. Scharf had to come up with a solution.

Designer Oded Gera, who had experience in leather garments, began combining nappa with mink, fox and nutria. The leather content reduced the price of the garment without detracting from the impact of luxury. From all-in-ones, Gera graduated to two-in-ones plus detachables; leather jackets with zip-out sleeves are topped by fur

Heavily influenced by traditional Japanese shapes, Gera has recently completed the stunning designs for Scharf's new winter collection of kimono-sleeved and asymmetrically cut mink and nappa judo jackets. All the toiles had been made up at the time of my visit, but not the furs. The toiles themselves, in off-white and grey — the two colours denoting the fur and leather placements in the finished garments — were absolutely fabulous.

"My female staff parade around in the toiles all the time," Uri Scharf confessed.

Anyone who buys a Scharf's fur, receives a small bi-lingual guide book on how to care for their fur. For instance, it is written that one of the worst things you can do is to put your fur coat in a plastic bag because fur needs to breathe. Also, the book says, perfume should be applied before putting on your coat as the alcohol in perfume dries the skin and hardens the hair of the fur.

G.F.C.



Leather-fur combo, by Scharf.

On the Market

TO FEEL beautiful from the inside out, beauty experts advise, start with make-up — and a glowing outlook.

According to Christian Dior's Yvette Lefrancois, who came to Israel recently to launch Dior's Feux Follets, the glowing outlook this season will come from an iridescent complexion, bright lips and dark eyes contrasting with half-tone eye shades and pale eyelids. If the mood seems to be dark and refined, Lefrancois points out, it is because of the liberal use of beige, black and brown tones.

A dark eyeliner is used in an uninterrupted stroke from upper to lower lids, giving the eyes a look of mystery, which is relieved by splashes of vivid colour on cheeks and lips. Instead of being patted on, pale powder is applied with a circular motion of the puff, giving a more natural effect.

Just as Dior is showing restraint in fabrics, shapes and shades in his couture, while remaining sophisticated and dramatic, the Dior make-up makes use of half-shades for softness and balance, according to Lefrancois.

Dior's new lipstick and nail enamel come in "Garance," a vivid, blue-toned, deep red; "Karkado," a brown-pink, muted shade; and "Mandrango," a luminous, golden brown.

Dior's Teint Dior make-up bases contain moisturizing and protective

foundations. An oil-in-water compound, the bases are rich in anti-dehydrant elements (aqualizer and polyols), wheat germ oil, ultra-violet filter and seaweed extracts.

"SOFTY" is a new hand cream containing Vitamin E, glycerine and silicone, which claims to restore the moisture balance to skin and provide a protective shield against detergents and the outdoor elements. It comes in an attractive pearly pink tube. Although one might not know it from the foreign-looking packaging, Softy is a local product — produced by "Chantelle" and distributed exclusively by Barak of Petah Tikva.

THERE is only one place in Israel for shoppers to buy the high-quality lambskin and leather goods produced by the Kadimor company. Most of the company's fur coats, jackets, vests and slippers are sent abroad, but many styles are available at its factory store in Kadima near Netanya. The leather and skins used by the company are of the best quality; the coats and jackets it makes are lightweight, water-repellent — and elegant. In addition, all Kadimor styles are designed according to the latest European fashions.

Next Wednesday, Life style will appear as a magazine, with a focus on gardening.

Life style editor: Joanna Yehiel.

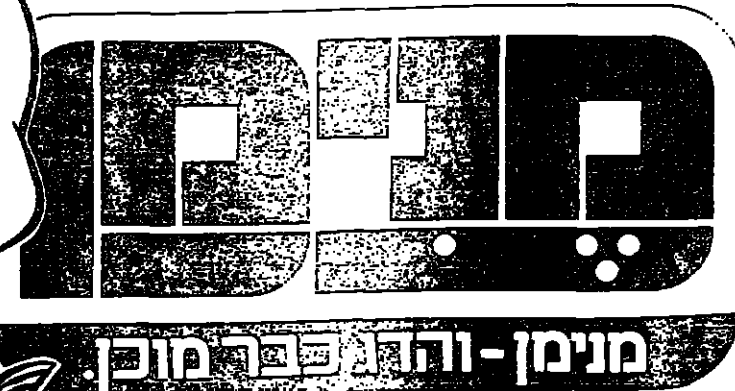
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Dollar again humbles European currencies

LONDON (AP). — The dollar, released from the prospect of central bank attempts to restrain it, yesterday surged to new records against West European currencies for the fifth straight day. Gold prices were little changed.

The dollar's dynamic performance in early trading took it to another set of record highs against the British, French, Italian and Danish currencies. The West German mark and the Dutch guilder sank to their lowest ebbs for at least a decade.

Dealers said the U.S. currency received a new boost after central bankers, meeting Monday in Basel, indicated there were no plans for state banks to intervene to try to restrain the dollar.

The dollar has been boosted by high U.S. interest rates and America's economic recovery. But dealers have also spoken of a "mass psychosis" driving the dollar, in what one described as "completely irrational" climb.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before it begins in Europe, the dollar moved up even against the strong Japanese yen — on Monday the only currency which gained on the U.S. currency. But the dollar closed yesterday at 234.05 yen, up 1.10 yen.

In London, the pound sank to a new record low of \$1.3948, compared with \$1.3997 late Monday — when for the first time its worth dropped below \$1.40.

The dollar hit 10.27 kroner in Copenhagen, its fourth record-breaking day against the Danish currency. In Helsinki, the currency reached a record 6.005 Finnish markkas.

Early dollar rates against other key currencies compared with late rates Monday: 2.8401 West German marks, up from 2.8320, a 10-year high; 2.2597 Swiss francs, up from 2.2508; 8.6765 French francs, up from 8.6737, a near 11-year high; 1.722.75 Italian lire, up from 1.717.10, an all-time high; 1.2534 Canadian dollars, up from 1.2522.

Gold, which tumbled \$10 on Monday because of the dollar's lure for investors, opened in London at \$366, little changed from its depressed \$366.25 bid late Monday. But it rallied in later trading, and London's five main bullion dealers set the mid-morning "fixing" at \$367.50.

In Zurich gold moved up steadily to \$368.50 bid at noon.

Jumbo Land buys into M.L.L.

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jumbo Land and Investment Company of Tel Aviv — developers of the Ramat Kidron community in the West Bank near Bethlehem — has bought a 12.5 per cent interest in the M.L.L. computer service bureau of Tel Aviv, a Jumbo spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

He said his firm's buying into M.L.L. is the first step in a diversification programme that will also take Jumbo into the export and financing fields. M.L.L. is said to be one of the country's largest data processing companies.

The spokesman said Jumbo considers setting up a computer-data processing centre in Ramat Kidron. It would use that enterprise to attract people overseas to buy a home there and become part of the new settlement.

Solei Boneh's Diyar housing subsidiary has been selected as home builder at Ramat Kidron, and sales office for homes and plots was opened recently in London. Another office is planned for New York.

Jumbo Land and Investment Company is owned by Amiel Fromchencko, an executive of Elite, the sweets manufacturer, and Shaul Yehieli.

Chance of work in new hotel attracts 200

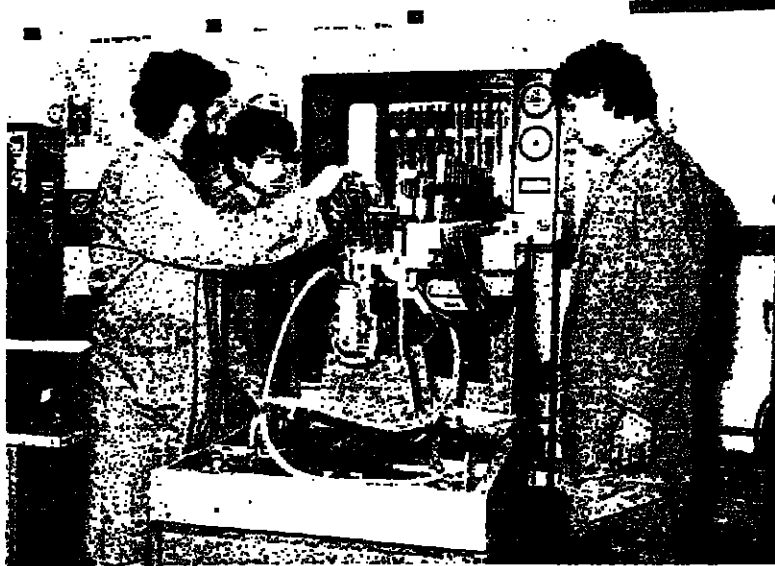
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Over 200 people showed up yesterday at the as yet unfinished Ramada Renaissance Hotel on Jerusalem's Sderot Herzl corner Ruppim, to find out about hotel work.

The job seekers were given a tour of the new hotel, shown a film on hotel work and served coffee and cake. They also filled out application forms and made appointments for interviews.

Those invited included olim, demobilized soldiers, and those who had registered at the labour exchange. Many of the applicants were university graduates.

The Tourism Ministry announced that some 2,000 workers are needed in hotels around the country. Tourism sources noted, however, that most of the openings will not become available until March or April.



With car diesel engines becoming increasingly popular, the Education Ministry's Technological Centre, in conjunction with Beersheba municipality, has opened a diesel training workshop at one of the city's vocational schools. The instructor, at left, is using sophisticated electronic training aids to make a point to two trainees. (Israel Sun)

Getty stock soars after deal

NEW YORK (Reuter). — Investors yesterday put aside fears of anti-trust (anti-monopoly) action by the U.S. government and sent the share prices of Getty Oil, the target of the largest ever American merger deal, sharply higher on Wall Street.

The price of Getty Oil shares, suspended from trading last week by the New York Stock Exchange after Texaco made a \$10 billion bid for control of the company, rose to \$120 when trading resumed yesterday, a gain of nearly \$16. The price later settled down to \$117.75.

Stock market analysts said that any fears of anti-trust action were minimal when compared with the benefits that a merger with Getty Oil would have on Texaco's oil-reserve position. Texaco shares rose to \$36.75, a gain of 75 cents.

Over the past few years, Texaco, like other major oil companies, found the amount of oil and natural gas it had in the ground was decreasing as exploration costs rose and its successful exploration rate fell. Control of Getty Oil, the nation's 15th-largest oil company, analysts said, will solve Texaco's reserve problems for years to come.

Wall Street sources, said the investment firm of Goldman Sachs brought Texaco into the struggle for control of Getty Oil last Thursday, just days after Getty and its major shareholders had agreed to sell the concern to an alliance formed between a son of founder J. Paul Getty and the Pennzoil Company.

Texaco's interest remained a secret until Friday, when it announced that it had bought the 12 per cent stake in Getty Oil held by one of the major shareholders, the J. Paul Getty Museum.

The Getty board reportedly approved the Texaco proposal without serious problems, but Pennzoil threatened to block the deal in court. Pennzoil, whose shares fell \$2.625, to \$35.75, also said it will petition Congress to block the merger.

Anti-trust experts said that large corporate mergers are more likely to be permitted under the Reagan administration than under previous administrations.

Goods exports fall by 3% in 1983

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Israel's exports of goods dropped by 3 per cent in 1983, totalling \$4.8 billion as compared to \$5 billion in 1982, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced.

The decrease was caused by a 6 per cent drop in industrial and agricultural exports, while diamond exports climbed to \$1b, showing an 11 per cent increase.

The bureau added that exports performed slightly better during the second part of the year, rising by 3.5 per cent over the level in the first half of 1983.

Industrial exports decreased by some \$200 million, from \$3.5b. in 1982 to \$3.3b. in 1983. This was caused mainly by a large drop in the exports of metals and electronic goods, including a big fall in military exports. This sector fell from \$1.5b. to \$1.3b.

Agricultural exports dropped from \$550m. in 1982 to \$520m. in 1983. This includes a fall in citrus exports from \$186m. in 1982 to \$173m. last year.

Every IS1 spent on road safety brings in IS3

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Road accidents cost the country's economy about \$300 million last year, the Transport Ministry's road safety administration estimates.

The cost is calculated in terms of expenditures for police and legal work, property damage and victims' medical treatment, insurance and income lost through absence from work.

Administration head Moshe Amirav said yesterday: "The high price, in dollar terms, does not include the pain and suffering caused by accidents. In some countries pain and suffering is given a so-called dollar value and is added to the cost of road accidents."

According to Amirav's statisticians, the state's outlay of IS1.5 billion for safety precautions in 1983 "was one of the best investments made by the government, bringing in a net profit of three shekels for every shekel invested, in terms of fewer accidents and their cost to the economy."

Cheap animal fodder

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Zoglobek meat processing plant at Shlomi, near the Lebanese border, recently started a new production line — animal feed.

The protein rich fodder is made from waste materials of the meat processing plant, which until now were simply thrown away. The wastes, which include feathers and bones, are turned into a powdery substance.

Company officials say that the new plant will save the country millions of dollars a year, which otherwise would have to be spent on imported fodder.

Kenes congress organizers optimistic as firm goes public

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Last year was good, this year looks very promising and 1985 should break all the records, according to Gidon Rivlin, head of the Kenes congress and convention organizing firm.

He was speaking yesterday at a reception tendered for the company by the Jerusalem Hilton, to mark the fact that Kenes was the hotel's best customer last year. Kenes was also celebrating the fact that this week it went public.

Rivlin explained that it is not extraordinary to forecast business two years in advance, in a field where planning often begins as much as six years before a gathering takes place. At the same time, he added, it is an area where one cannot stand still. Every new meeting needs yet another innovation to make it better than the last.

The company, which was founded in 1966, is the first in the tourist industry, other than hotel chains, to sell its shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The new chairman of the board is Avraham ("Buma") Shavit.

Better packaging may save millions

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Two improved packaging systems which are expected to save industry millions of dollars and dramatically reduce damage to export products have been developed at the Technion.

One of the processes involves coating corrugated cardboard boxes — widely used for shipping citrus and agricultural products — with polymeric materials which increase the strength of the boxes while reducing their sensitivity to humidity.

The polymeric material will enable manufacturers to use thinner, weaker cardboard instead of the heavy cardboard currently employed to ensure adequate protection. The treated boxes are expected to be 20 to 25 per cent cheaper to make.

The research was a joint project by Prof. Joseph Miltz, head of the packaging laboratory of the Technion's department of food engineering and biotechnology, and IMA Corrugated Containers of Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz. IMA has already started producing the treated boxes and several companies, here and abroad, have expressed an interest in the process, the Technion spokesman said.

Prof. Miltz is also developing an improved method of plastic foam packaging which is used mainly for shipping products like computers, electronic devices, and medical and military equipment.

He said that under the present "trial and error" system manufacturers tended to "underpack or overpack," with resulting damage to products.

He believes the method will not only be more efficient, but will reduce the costs of transport, storage and, ultimately, the product itself.

TV to spend \$600,000 to cover LA Olympics

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel Television will spend \$600,000 on covering the Los Angeles Olympics this summer, it was announced on Monday. Most of the money will go to cover satellite time and to pay fees of the Olympics Organizing Committee.

The games will be broadcast live, in the morning and evening.

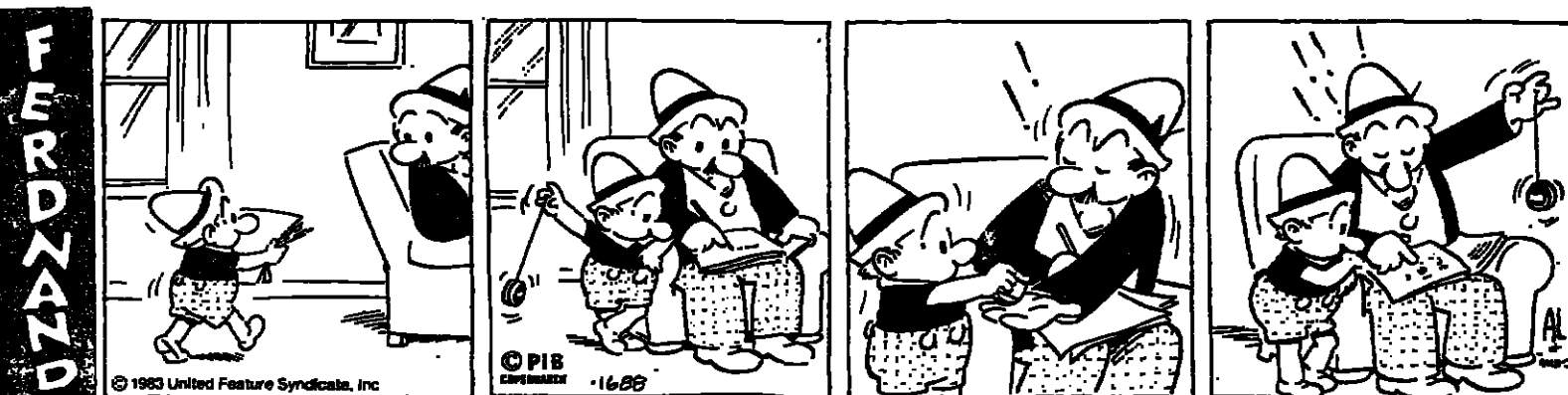
New System for Paying Insurance Premiums

In respect of the newspaper notices on the matter, we wish to offer the following clarification:

The announcement by the Israel Association of Insurance Companies concerning the new "cheque service" arrangement for comprehensive vehicle and apartment insurance, and apartment contents insurance, is only a recommendation and is not binding on the insurance companies. Every insurance company has the right to act in this matter as it deems fit.



Israel Association of Insurance Companies



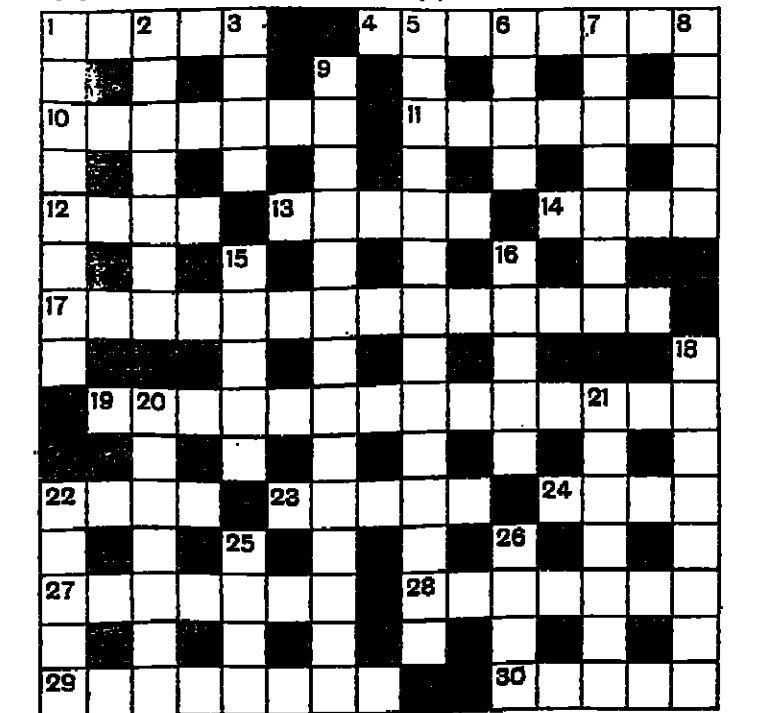
ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 & 4 The bridge party's objectives (5, 9)
- 10 ... for this head of the house (7)
- 11 Cook was making arrangements for eleven (7)
- 12 & 25 Bully's sphere may finally dwindle to it (4, 4)
- 13 How many world wonders? Poles kept apart by woman? (5)
- 14 A manoeuvre to pull at the oars around duck (4)
- 17 Reporter running his own paper shop? (8, 2, 4)
- 19 You'd not hear a fixer fall for such utter hush-hush conditions (7, 7)
- 22 Manage a musical composition in church (4)
- 23 & 24 Jade's true growth-producing rose colours (5, 4)
- 27 Though out of the dorm, Anthia's still asleep it seems (7)
- 28 Damages given to one million couples (7)
- 29 Display of jest made Cockney cry in thirsty conditions (8)
- 30 Deranged Den taken out showed violence (5)

DOWN

- 1 Ready-money pool helping fend off the cold (8)
- 2 To beyond what's reasonable in taking another's part (7)
- 3 In South America the monkey told some fifty stories, but ... (4)
- 5 ... nimble accounts turned into black North American tragedy (5, 4, 5)
- 6 Seedy but just wins (4)
- 7 Everything in the display is superficial (7)
- 8 A description of some beachcomber's hut? (5)
- 9 Cowardly hit resulting from a momentary confrontation (5, 9)
- 15 Instant joy is far-fetched, you'll discover initially (5)
- 16 Corner gangleader in winding lane (5)
- 18 Passed on, indeed! Case is bust! (8)
- 20 The growth of paperwork in Spain (7)
- 21 Carefully managing to train brothers to mix gas (7)
- 22 One poem among 400 needs deciphering (5)
- 25 See 12
- 26 Box-spring given poor finish (4)



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Eilat 72333 Rishon LeZion 942333

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Magen David Adom first aid centres are open from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. Emergency home calls by doctors at fixed rates. Sick Fund members should enquire about rebate.

Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel Aviv, 1234819, Jerusalem — 810110, and Haifa 88701.

"Eran" — Mental Health First Aid, Tel.: Jerusalem 669911, Tel Aviv 253011, Haifa 538-888, Beersheva 48111, Netanya 55316.

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Completely
- 4 O.T. lawgiver

DOWN

- 8 S. African plain
- 9 Parliamentary record
- 10 Pecuniary share (45)

11 To measure

12 Cross

14 Girl's name

15 A single time

18 Cut off

21 Distorted

22 Scrum for ear

25 Scrum

26 Jibe

27 Mass-meeting

28 Straw roof

DOWN

- 1 Fictitious winged monster
- 2 Sailor's waterproof
- 3 Tidal shoreland
- 4 Fur
- 5 Unexpected
- 6 Full of small
- 13 Shipboard duty (35)
- 16 Garden game
- 17 Over the edge
- 19 Snooped
- 20 Rough drawing
- 22 Of the country
- 24 Bago

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

PARTY PAYMENTS

1 B E C O U A H

2 M A R I N E S

3 C A R N E R A

4 F I T C G W C

5 R E N I S H

6 A R A M A I C

7 C E A P S E

8 C A T E R

9 S E N E S C A L

10 T O

11 T A R T A R E A N

12 M I S S E R

13 I A R

14 P A A A

15 O P I N I O N

16 A P R I C O T

17 N E S T

18 T R I

19 S E C T I O N

20 E D I T I O N

21 A M O I A S

22 G

QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Standard, 2 Signs, 3 Reverence, 4 Rival, 5 Fort, 6 Swerve, 7 Amends, 8 Scared, 9 Vulcan, 10 Gloom, 11 Add, 12 Sophistry, 13 Able, 14 Exaggerate, 15 Agree, 16 Assured, 17 Secret, 18 Indole, 19 Almanac, 20 Relaxed, 21 Happen, 22 Voter, 23 Mayor, 24 Wize.

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Shares in minor upward adjustment

TEL AVIV. — Shares prices were moderately higher yesterday in a performance which could generally be described as a minor technical correction. Turnovers were skimpy and totaled just a hair over \$1462 million. Despite a rise of 0.05 per cent in the General Share Index, without the banks, major losing issues outpaced winners 67 to 62.

The oil sector was slightly more active than on Monday and prices continued to advance. Investors are hopeful that additional announcements of possible oil finds will have a positive effect on share prices. In the meantime, there were no further announcements regarding the prospects of bringing oil in commercial quantities at the Karmon and Gurim oil sites.

The Discount 1 shares were 4.6 per cent higher. Other bank shares which are part of the agreement with the Treasury, were unchanged. The Bank of Israel continued to maintain its policy of buying up all shares offered and without any change in price. Nevertheless, the yield of the bank shares continues to advance, as these issues are linked to the dollar and when their price remains unchanged but the dollar weakens against the dollar, the yield figure advances.

Yesterday the shekel was devalued by 80 agorot against the dollar.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

The index-linked bond market, on balance, saw prices dribble lower. Trading turnovers of just under \$1900 million were nearly twice the amount traded in the share market.

Mortgage bank issues trended somewhat higher. Binyan Mortgage was up by 2.3 per cent. Yesterday marked the first time that the Binyan shares were traded on a computerized basis, rather than on the more widely practiced auction system. Independence Bank was 9.7 per cent higher. Adamim clipped in with an eight per cent advance.

Specialized financial institutions, equities were also higher, as Clal Leasing 0.1 rose by 9.9 per cent.

The beleaguered insurance group continued to suffer from lack of support and of interest on the part of the investing public. Zur was on the "sellers only" list, while Zion Holdings 1 was 8.7 per cent lower. Ararat 0.1 was a good performer and came through with a 9.4 per cent gain.

The service and trade group was down by 1.41 per cent and was the

worst performing sector of the active session. Bonded Warehouses 0.1 was 10 per cent lower. M.L.L. 1 was the object of slight selling pressures, but it was enough to drive its price down by a full 10 per cent. Nikuv Computers 5 shares were 9.8 per cent losers.

Land development, real estate and citrus plantation issues drifted slightly lower. Amnonim appeared on the "sellers only" list for the second session. Today the shares will trade without any of the customary price restraints.

Halfpenny Property & Building continued to falter and was down by 5.5 per cent. Mehadrin was a 7.4 per cent loser.

Industrials were mixed, with a slight tendency for prices to rise. The Dubeck shares were both 6.4 per cent winners.

The textile and clothing group was weak. United Spinners and Ata C were 10 per cent losers. Lodzia 0.4, however, was up by 10.3 per cent.

In the technology group Aris was a five per cent gainer. Elbit out a 1.6 per cent gain, but Elron eased by 0.7 per cent. Clal Electronics was 4.3 per cent improved. The Dead Sea Works eased by 3.2 per cent. Molett clipped in with a 10 per cent gain.

Clal Industry was unchanged. The company announced that its general manager, Zvi Tzur, has asked to be released from his position as of April 1. He will remain, however, as deputy-general manager of Clal Israel and will continue to serve on the board of directors of a number of companies in the Clal group.

Investment company equities wound up slightly higher. The Israel Corporation 1 shares picked up two per cent, while the 5 shares were 4.1 per cent higher. Discount Investments, both registered and bearer, advanced by 9.4 per cent.

Gains were recorded in the oil group.

Clal Israel announced that it has cancelled its agreement with Israel Corporation shareholders. According to the original agreement the Israel Corporation shareholders were to receive Clal shares for their shares. Clal stated that the step was taken as a result of its inability to obtain exchange approval, unless Clal extended the offer, on an equal basis, to other Israel Corporation shareholders within a period of six months.

In a related development United Mizrahi Bank has formally notified Clal Israel that unless it goes through with its agreement to buy Mizrahi's share holdings in the Israel Corporation for the stipulated sum of \$28 million, the bank will institute legal proceedings.

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Company	Volume	Change	% Change
Commercial Banks			
OHH	91	38	+100
Maritime 0.1	242	123	+100
Maritime 5	136	456	+2.3
N. American 1	1312	71	n.c.
N. American 5	2083	126	n.c.
N. Am. op 1	1116	109	n.c.
Danot 1	220	172	+10.2
Danot 5	69	734	+3.5
Danot 5.2	154	114	+2.5
First Int'l 5	200	862	+10.4
IBI	155	41	+2.8

Company	Volume	Change	% Change
Commercial Banks			
IDB	224	47	+10
IDB 0.1	224	47	+10
IDB 5	150	8	n.c.
IDB 5 A	1920	3	n.c.
IDB op 11	1055	135	+4.0
Union 0.1	2390	48	n.c.
Discount 0.1	4300	199	+4.6
Discount op 2	2839	135	n.c.
Discount 5	501	293	+5.1
Mizrahi 0.1	1222	65	+5.3
Mizrahi 5	1330	1	n.c.
Mizrahi op 11	1000	136	+10
Mizrahi op 12	765	278	+3.6
Mizrahi 5.2	600	100	+16.7
Mizrahi 5.2 op 9	597	125	+3.7
Hapoalim 0.1	2700	0	n.c.
Hapoalim 5	2180	590	n.c.
Hapoalim 5.2	2180	590	n.c.
Hapoalim op 8	7700	9	+0.9
General A	5500	41	n.c.
General op 8	11800	5	+0.0
General 5	11800	5	+0.0
General 5.2	4240	2	+0.1
General op 7	200	221	+10.4
Leumi 0.1	1876	8021	+2.2
Leumi op 1	1876	8021	+2.2
Leumi op 11	550	649	+1.4
Finance Trade 1	1920	12	n.c.
Finance Trade 5	944	0	n.c.
Finance Trade op 14	0	0	n.c.

Company	Volume	Change	% Change
Commercial Banks			
Admon 0.1	510	21	+6.0
Gen. Mortgage	1282	22	+2.2
Gen. Mortgage 5	1282	22	+2.2
Carmel 0.1	1560	3	+0.2
Carmel 5	1560	3	+0.2
Carmel deb	120	101	+8.8
Binyan	1004	24	+2.3
DevMortgage 0.1	890	4	n.c.
DevMortgage 5	890	4	n.c.
DevMortgage deb	102	0	n.c.
Mishkan 0.1	3665	9	n.c.
Mishkan 5	3665	9	n.c.
Independence	1580	9	+0.7
Tefatoh 0.1	710	2	+0.3
Tefatoh 5	710	2	+0.3
Tefatoh deb. 1	326	2	+0.6
Tefatoh deb. 5	153	228	+12.7
Jaysour 0.1	298	103	+3.4
Jaysour 5	298	103	+3.4
Jaysour op 12	171	20	+11.5
Menorah	171	20	+11.5

Company	Volume	Change	% Change
Commercial Banks			
Shilon 0.1	115	101	+2.1
Shilon 5	115	101	+2.1
Shilon deb	898	4	n.c.
Agriculture 0.1	898	4	n.c.
Agriculture 5	898	4	n.c.
Leumi Ind 0.1	738	28	+3.3
Leumi Ind 5	738	28	+3.3
Leumi Ind deb	747	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage 0.1	630	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage 5	630	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage deb	1230	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage op 12	1214	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage 5.2	11576	0	n.c.
Dev. Mortgage 5.2 op 12	4668	0	n.c.
Concession	9720	110	+9.1
Tourism	9720	110	+9.1
Clal Lease 0.1	177	6	+16.9
Clal Lease 5	118	2	+1.7
Clal Lease deb	638	88	+1.2

Company	Volume	Change	% Change
Commercial Banks			
Darad 0.1	198	76	n.c.
Darad 5	103	4	+9.1
Darad op 1	137	75	n.c.
H.L.B. 0.1	365	27	+7.4
H.L.B. 5	365	27	+7.4
Property Bldg.	1080	767	+5.5
Bay Side 0.1	1080	43	n.c.
Bay Side 5	854	63	+7.4
ILDC 0.1	845	220	+26.6
ILDC 5	1014	0	n.c.
Ispira	136	107	+7.7
Israel 0.1	160	5	+3.1
Israel 5	160	5	+3.1
Chen Dev.	41	97	+1.1
Chen Dev. op 1	41	97	+1.1
Clal Real op D	204	92	n.c.
Lumir 0.1	68	50	+1.5
Lumir 5	40	195	+3.8
Lumir op 1	230	0	n.c.
M.T.M. 0.1	230	0	n.c.
M.T.M. 5	400	0	n.c.
M.T.M. op 1	665	0	n.c.
Blid. Res. op	58	188	+1.8
Blid. Res. op 1	34	75	n.c.

Agriculture C	8691	0	n.c.	
Leumi Ind r	738	28	-2	-3
Leumi Ind b	747			
Dev. Mortgage r	6350		-270	-4.1
Dev. Mortgage b	21400			
Dev. Mortgage c	17301		+475	+3.7
Dev. Mortgage cl	12140		-1000	-7.6
Dev. Mortgage d	11576			
Dev. Mortgage e	4668			
Contractors	99	110	+9	+10.0
Tourism	9720			
Clal Lease 0.1	177	6	+16	9.9
Clal Lease-0.5	118	2	+4	+3.5
Clal Lease deh	636	88	-1	+2

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The squeeze on Cohen-Orgad

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, nothing came of yesterday's tripartite meeting between government, employers and Histadrut on a so-called "package deal." None of the three principals wanted the meeting in the first place, and it was held only on the insistence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his hyperactive deputy, David Levy.

Neither the prime minister nor his deputy seems to have grasped clearly enough that what they were asking for was for Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad to radically shift his objectives. A package deal, such as Messrs. Shamir and Levy wanted, or pretended to want, addresses itself to the containment of inflation through wage and price restraint and a freeze on taxes and devaluation. This is exactly the opposite of what Mr. Cohen-Orgad has been trying to do, because he knows that there is no way to fight inflation and a threatening foreign payments gap at one and the same time. The thrust of his efforts so far has been to accelerate inflation and use it as a tax mechanism to reduce real wages and consumption, so as to improve the foreign payments position.

Messrs. Shamir and Levy may not have realized that they are trying to push Mr. Cohen-Orgad back into an Aridor-type policy, of giving priority to containing inflation and letting the payments balance take care of itself (with the generous help of Uncle Sam). The finance minister no doubt explained the difference to them, but evidently to no avail. They opted for an appeal for a "package deal," because, like calls for "national unity," it has a popular ring.

When inflation is pushed up — deliberately, as a means to depress real wages and bring about a recession — to a rate of half a per cent per day, and more, any talk of a social compact becomes, at best, a pipedream. There is a basis for a package deal — at the best of times a short-term arrangement — only when the prospective partners are not too far apart on substance, but need to overcome their distrust of one another by arriving at some mutually supportive compact.

Even then, experience has shown that such agreements do not last long, and they are weighted heavily against wage earners. Governments, for their part, can always circumvent the self-imposed restraints on tax increases, price boosts or cuts in subsidies. The business sector, while promising to peg prices, can find a thousand ways to adjust them upwards in line with "costs," profit margins included.

The only ones who cannot easily wriggle out of a "package deal" are the workers who, once having agreed to a given pay scale, are bound by it. And when the rules of the game are changed in mid-play, as Mr. Cohen-Orgad has done, and wage earners refuse to take it without a murmur, they, and they alone, carry the stigma of obstructing the "rescue of the economy."

In these circumstances, the Histadrut was right to refuse a deal. The existing cost-of-living allowance agreement was designed for a rate of inflation of 2 or 4 per cent a month, not 15 or 21. And it has never been, and never will be, the cost-of-living allowance that pushes up inflation, no matter what its rate. Even if the allowance is set at 100 per cent compensation for price rises, and paid monthly or even once a fortnight, it will always lag behind inflation, not run ahead of it.

The demand of the day is for a choice to be made from among national priorities. Of the Likud's four finance ministers, only Yigal and such is the cost of Greater Eretz Yisrael, and there is no money for anything else. His successor Yoram Aridor tried to contain inflation by letting the foreign trade gap widen. The latest of the Likud's finance ministers is trying the opposite tack. Frightened by a looming foreign payments crisis, he is pushing inflation up to save foreign currency without, at the same time, succeeding in the crucial task of reducing, not government expenditure, but the excess of government spending over revenue.

Package deals or social compacts cannot re-order national priorities which, like everything else, have their price. When this price is beyond the country's resources, the priorities have to yield. That is not something to be agreed between Yigal Cohen-Orgad, Yeroham Meshel and Eli Hurvitz.

POSTSCRIPTS

PS HORSE thieves in Rehovot apparently prefer rocking horses. So far five such rocking horses have been stolen from public parks, and the municipality official in charge of the parks says that he does not remember such horses ever being stolen before.

He believes that the horses may

have been taken because of the economic situation. "They wanted to bring a toy home for their children which they could not afford to buy."

Just the same, he warned the horse thieves to return the stolen property fast, before the Rehovot sheriff and his deputies track them down.

Y.O.

AGENCY BOARD

(Continued from Page One)

is the person who could inspire Israeli emigrants to return home, and that he had succeeded in raising \$80 million in Israel Bonds in frequent appearances abroad.

The Confederation and the Union delegates made no commitment to him, saying only that they would allow their members to vote by secret ballot according to their own conscience.

Sharon declared yesterday that he would stand for election even if he were persuaded that he could not win a majority of the 112-member Zionist General Council (ZGC).

Agency legal experts, who have said that Sharon could not remain a minister while serving as a member of the Agency Executive, suggested yesterday that the ZGC could empower its presidium — a much smaller body representing the various Zionist parties — to elect a new aliyah chairman. That would allow a less-public contest, and would enable Herut to pressure representatives of the other parties more easily than in the full plenum. But the full plenum of the ZGC has in the past always voted on department chairmen.

There were rumours yesterday that Matityahu Drobless, Herut's co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's settlement depart-

ment, might be persuaded to take over the aliyah department and leave the settlement department to Sharon. Opposition to Drobless in the aliyah post would be minimal, and fewer ZGC delegates might oppose Sharon in the settlement department. But Drobless has given no indication that he would be ready to leave the settlement department, where he is known to have proved a successful and energetic chairman.

Although the Sharon issue pervaded the ZGC meeting, delegates yesterday discussed in committee various aspects of the structure of the Zionist movement and how to change it. The main question was how to reduce the impact of politicization in the movement, as well as whether to demand more Zionist commitment from members.

President Chaim Herzog, receiving ZGC delegates and World Zionist Organization officials at Beit Hanassi yesterday, was presented with the Education and Culture in the Diaspora Department's medallion, the first of many of its type to be produced by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

On Monday night, former president Yitzhak Navon gave a lecture in memory of David Ben-Gurion, who died 10 years ago.

Public relations wizardry

By HARRY J. LIPKIN

MANY ANALYSES of American Middle East policy today are superficial, still occupied with fighting the last war instead of looking at today's reality, overly obsessed with the Palestine problem and grossly underestimating the Reagan administration. Headlines like "We're Underestimating the Arabs Once Again," "We forget that Syria, too, has vital interests" and "Tilting toward Israel won't get the Marines home" are typical of this syndrome.

The Reagan administration consists of top-rate professionals in the area of public relations. Their expertise includes not only the domestic scene, but also the Arab world. No matter what this administration does, they know how to ensure that it plays both in Peoria and in Riyadh. They can tilt toward Israel and make it play in Riyadh. And they won't get the "Marines home and they'll make it play in Peoria."

The Reagan plan for the Middle East is a masterpiece of public relations. It has successfully conquered the media, even though it contained nothing that had not been said before by previous administrations and so far has accomplished nothing. Today there can be no discussion of the Middle East without mentioning the name of Ronald Reagan. The name of Jimmy Carter, who deserves credit for the tremendous achievement of Camp David, is hardly ever mentioned and nobody remembers Brezhnev. The Reagan plan has no competition in the media.

The agreement between Lebanon and Israel last May was another Reagan triumph in public relations. All over the Arab world, the local TV showed Lebanese, Israeli and American delegations in a ceremonial signing "somewhere in Israel" with no loud outcries against it in the Arab media. Sadat could never have achieved this; he was called a traitor. The Syrians have finally managed to make a noise against the agreement and demand its modification or abrogation. But once again, the credit for the agreement goes to Reagan. It is the only agreement or plan under discussion, and everyone knows that the key to its implementation or modification lies in Washington.

The exit of Yasser Arafat from

Tripoli and his meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak were further Reagan triumphs. With no basic change in U.S. policy and very little achievement, it has given Reagan the image he needs in the Arab world and among all pro-Arab lobbies in the U.S. to counter the backlash from the strategic agreement with Israel.

REAGAN'S TALENT for manipulating public opinion makes his Middle East Policy immune to pressures of domestic politics. He can do as he pleases in the Middle East and present any situation afterwards as a great American success. He has no need to bring the Marines home before the election, regardless of what congressmen and pundits are saying. He has never promised, or even implied, that they should be brought home soon. On the contrary, he has consistently said that they have a job to do in Lebanon and will not be withdrawn until it is done. If the Marines are still there during the election campaign, Reagan will appear on television and win over the public with a patriotic speech about the great job the Marines are doing. He can easily manipulate the opposition into an untenable position of being unpatriotic or un-American.

Lebanon is neither Vietnam nor Iran, and will not be a major issue in the election. It is far away and no voters have sons drafted into the army or in danger of being drafted. The U.S. Army today consists entirely of volunteers who know that being in the army involves fighting and the risk of being killed, and have decided that the rewards are worth the risk. There are no draftees who might have reasons of conscience for not wanting to fight. There are no hostages, like those in the Iranian Embassy, who volunteered for a peacetime civilian job and did not anticipate being held. There will be very little pressure from those involved to get out and go home. On the contrary, the pressure from the military on the spot will be to ask for more power to do the job right.

Very few voters will ballot on the basis of Lebanon. The vast majority will find other issues such as the economy much more important. Reagan will not waste his efforts trying to influence the liberals who

voted against him in 1980 and will do the same in 1984. Opposition politicians attempting to play up the Lebanese situation will find the public bored with it all by next November.

The Reagan administration can make good use in the Arab world of the experience and contacts of Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Both formerly held high positions in the Bechtel Corporation and successfully negotiated hard-headed business deals with Arabs, and with the Saudis in particular. They know how to combine carrot, stick, arm-twisting and irrelevant rhetoric to retain the support of the Saudis and other pro-American Arabs. They can avoid the trap of uniting the Arabs against the U.S. by attacking Syria at the wrong time. They can first isolate Syria in the Arab world by joining America's Arab friends who support Iraq in its war against Khomenei while Syria supports non-Arab Iran.

THE ISRAELI-ARAB conflict is the last war. Today's war is between Iran and Iraq, with the threat of Khomenei hanging all over the Arab world. The Saudis today are afraid of Khomenei, not of Israel. Of course everybody pays lip service to the Palestinian cause, but nobody is doing anything about it.

The invasion of Grenada showed how the Reagan administration operates. A military victory produced by overwhelming brute force with little ingenuity or sophistication was accompanied by a masterful PR campaign back home which effectively neutralized all domestic opposition to the operation. It was the reverse of Israeli operations, which combine fantastic skill and ingenuity on the military level with gross incompetence in public relations and lead to condemnation of Israel even by those whose national interests favour the action. The Reagan administration manages to get reluctant approval for actions like Grenada and Lebanon even from those who would normally come out strongly against such adventures.

Reagan will not back down from a confrontation with the Soviets in an area like the Middle East, whose

READERS' LETTERS

MISSIONARY EXAGGERATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Six thousand unauthorised missionaries in Israel: 2,000 baptised Jewish converts; 10,000 Israelis in cults. These are the strange figures regularly published in Rabbi Shmuel Golding's advertisements.

On the basis of my own observations and inquiries I challenge these grotesque exaggerations and ask him to support his statements by revealing where authentic lists of names of converts and missionaries are kept hidden. He may not realise it, but in the absence of such lists or other reputable evidence, intelligent people will sooner or later suspect him of deliberate falsification either to attract contributions from the gullible, or for nefarious political objectives. Rabbi Golding may be innocent on both counts, but his exaggerations leave him open to this kind of interpretation.

Professor Alex Carmel of Haifa University, was quoted (The Jerusalem Post, November 18) as observing that in 150 years of activity the missionaries had succeeded in converting only 1,000 Jews. Of course, every single Jew counts for us, and even ten a year is bad enough. But bad as it is, we are not talking of Golding's thousands! Professor Carmel also tells us that about 100 years ago pious Jews all over the Diaspora were approached

for contributions to help save Jews from missionary activity, and he continues, "This is when the big schnorr started. We are only too well aware that it is still going strong." Indeed, we are.

But beneath all this scare-mongering and falsification there is an underlying serious political danger of which Rabbi Golding and his well-meaning supporters should be warned. We are already witnesses to a deliberate attempt to stir up irrational hatred against non-Jews living in Israel. If anyone is naive enough to be persuaded that there are "6,000 unauthorised missionaries in Israel" then every other Christian in Jerusalem must be suspected!

We have never been slow to complain about anti-Semitism. Now, I fear that some of our uncontrollable zealots are busy stirring up a frenzy of anti-gentilism. The burning of the Baptist Church and the recent acts of vandalism against non-Jewish houses of worship are warning signs that there is a mountain of dynamite in Jerusalem which some modern "religious" Sicarii are trying to light. By countenancing such irrational hatred we will only help to set off an explosion which will destroy us all.

(Rabbi Dr.) CHAIM PEARL
Jerusalem.

RABBI KAHANE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: In a recent article on the Arab "invasion" of Upper Nazareth, you used the expression, "the lunatic Kach movement of Rabbi Meir Kahane." What do you think then of Rabbi Kahane being invited last year to give a talk at the Anaheim Habad centre, and last month to school children of the Lubavitch Hebrew Academy in Westminster — the only Hebrew day school in Orange county? A nice way to present the children with "another point of view"!

One day before his appearance before the children, in a private home, Kahane preached his usual stuff about paying the Arabs to leave Palestine or expelling them by force, etc. While speaking at the Hebrew Academy, he said that he

did not care about maths, that the important thing was to learn Torah. The children turned out to be more reasonable than the organizers of this dismal show. Rabbi Kahane made no impression on any of them.

Duarte, California. A. LEV-RAN

WZO AD

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — An advertisement appeared in The Post of January 9 regarding a WZO policy matter. Although a name similar to mine, but spelled differently, was attached as a signatory, please be advised that I was never contacted for either my view on the matter involved or for permission to use my name.

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TORA SCROLL THIEVES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — Bernard Edelman's "The hot scroll caper" (December 23) might have been more enlightening had it included the following incident reported in The New York Times.

Some two years ago, a dealer in Jewish religious objects on the Lower East Side of New York City was indicted for receiving stolen goods, i.e. a Tora scroll. At the trial, none of the facts of the incident was disputed. The defence of the accused was that, being an observant Jew, he was bound by religious injunction to buy the scroll from the thief, in order to fulfil the mitzva of ransoming the Tora from Gentile hands.

A Rabbi Hecht, who serves as the radio voice in New York of the Lubavitch movement testified as an expert witness as to the correctness and importance of this religious injunction and the accused was acquitted.

Under the circumstances, observant Jews may well drive out of business all other receivers of stolen Tora scrolls and Jewish stealers of scrolls will have to take in Gentiles as partners.

SAMUEL DUKER
Jerusalem.

PENFRIENDS

ERIC ASANIE ADOTING, (19) of P.O. Box 11086, Accra North, Ghana, would like to have Israeli penfriends. A student at a technical institute, his interests include tennis, soccer and volleyball.

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oil is so important to the West. Some policymakers in the administration probably think that the oil is at least as important as Berlin and should be defended with the same kind of force. The ideal situation from their point of view is a show of strength such as the Cuban missile crisis, which compels the Russians and Syrians to back down.

Their policy appears to be aimed at building up to such a confrontation, while covering the PR front both at home and in the Arab world. They are increasing their military strength in the Middle East while carefully manipulating public opinion everywhere to make the escalations acceptable. They have already succeeded in achieving a military presence unthinkable two years ago by exploiting the public relations aspects of the Lebanese situation. To them, peace and stability in Lebanon are only a minor issue to be used as a cover for escalations.

THE NEXT step may be to form an alliance with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq under the banner of Arab nationalism fighting against the Iranians, and isolating the Syrians as renegades supporting Khomenei. Strong support for Iraq will arouse Israeli opposition, so a delicate balance must be maintained. The new American strategic agreement with Israel is a necessary

prelude for neutralizing Israeli resistance to the courting of Iraq. U.S. mediator Donald Rumsfeld has now paid the first visit to Baghdad of any U.S. official since 1967.

Syria is not Vietnam. The Syrians do not have the motivation of the North Vietnamese to stand up against overwhelming military forces. In Lebanon, the Syrians are ready to fight to the last Palestinian and Shi'ite, but always find a face-saving exit when Syria and Syrian troops are in serious danger. The Syrian border with Israel has always been quiet when the Syrians knew they were apt to take a beating. A credible American threat to bomb Syria with anything like the forces used in bombing North Vietnam could bring the Syrians to accept a face-saving exit from Lebanon which recognizes Syria's legitimate security interests there.

Such aggressive brinkmanship is entirely consistent with the behaviour of the Reagan administration. It can be expected to be backed by a strong military force in the area capable of really hurting the Syrians and the Russians; and a well-orchestrated public relations campaign that plays well back home.

The writer is a member of the Department of Nuclear Physics at the Weizmann Institute.

MKS' SALARIES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir — Letters which appeared recently in your column regarding the 10 per cent cut in MKs' salaries implied that the MKs refused to implement the cut. This impression was created by the report of Adi Amora (Alignment), a member of the Finance Committee, to the Knesset Committee, in which he claimed that, since the salaries of MKs were only adjusted twice a

year, they automatically suffered considerable erosion, especially in today's inflationary conditions, and were thus effectively cut.

Therefore, the cynicism displayed towards the people's elected representatives is neither founded nor justified.

SARA YITZHAK
In charge of Public Relations
and Press
The Knesset
Jerusalem.

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